

# Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

## Bulletin

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"The little girl must have been much alone. Perhaps that is one reason she loved to read and learned to make realities of things which touched her imagination. There were early enthusiasms for the initiative of men of vision, always fervor for the spirit not daunted by circumstances. . . . She was one of the gallant company who through the ages have kept alive a fire of faith in life as a thing given us to be formed."

—FROM THE ROAD TO THE TEMPLE

### EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The twelfth Eastern Regional Child Welfare Conference will be held in Brooklyn on April 1 and 2 as the guest of the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society. Delegates from child-caring agencies in Delaware, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and possibly Connecticut, will attend. Previously this conference has been held in Manhattan, Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, but this is the first time that a regional child welfare conference has been held in Brooklyn.

While it is difficult to estimate the number of trustees, executives, supervisors and workers of children's aid societies, societies for the prevention of cruelty to children, orphanages and other agencies and institutions for the care of children who will attend, on account of the general economic situation, regional conferences of the League held in previous years have resulted in the attendance of approximately 500 delegates.

The headquarters building of the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society at 72 Schermerhorn Street will serve as conference headquarters. The smaller group meetings will be held at this address, where the Child Guidance Service of the society can also be visited. The larger group and general meetings will be held in the German Evangelical Church.

Arrangements are now being made for a series of group luncheons and a general dinner to be held in the immediate vicinity.

### THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE

Advance hotel reservations indicate that there may be a record-breaking attendance at the National Conference of Social Work in Philadelphia, May 15th to

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### INSTITUTION NEWS

#### THE LEAGUE BRINGS OUT A NEW PUBLICATION, "MANUAL FOR COTTAGE MOTHERS IN INSTITUTIONS"

The cottage mother is slowly but surely coming into her own. The latest effort to center attention upon her is the publication of the *Manual for Cottage Mothers in Institutions* by the Child Welfare League of America.

The subject matter of the manual is arranged under the headings Vital Relationships, Health Needs, Mental Hygiene, Character Development, Play and Recreation, Diet and Home Economics, The Child's Busy Day, Working Conditions and Wages, and the Cottage Mother's Bookshelf. While we do not claim that the manual covers all the things a cottage mother should know, we believe it will stimulate her to think more creatively and objectively about her job. If this assumption is correct, the new publication may help to raise standards in the child care field another notch or two.

With the exception of the chapter on play, which was prepared by Miss Erna D. Bunke of the National Recreation Association, the subject matter is based largely upon the experience and observation of the members of the League's own staff. Mr. Hopkirk was responsible for working out the form in which the material is presented and for the preparation of the major portion of the manuscript.

To the best of our knowledge no one has previously written a *Toast to the Cottage Mother*. We recommend the following paragraph from the manual's introduction as suitable for such a purpose:

"The cottage mother must be a wise mother-substitute, loving her children enough but not too much. She must try to understand parents who are good, bad and indifferent. She is 'right hand man' to the social worker, the teacher, the physician, the nurse, the psychologist and the psychiatrist. She should be able to keep cool when epidemics break out, when children run away, when drunken parents come to call, when buildings catch fire, when cooks leave, when the heating plant breaks down and when the professional staff gets temperamental."

For six or more copies the manual costs 30 cents each. Single copies, 50 cents.

### BOARD MEMBERS VISIT FOSTER HOMES

Executives of children's agencies often find it difficult to interpret certain aspects of foster home care to board members in such a way that the warmth and color inherent in a foster care program become real. It is especially difficult to do this when a shift has been made from a program of institutional care to one which includes only foster home placement and family adjustment.

The Jewish Children's Society of Baltimore was faced with this problem of interpretation, among many others, when it closed its beautiful institution, Levindale, in 1927, and adopted a foster care program. One of the ways by which the society attempted to enlist the whole-hearted support of the board members in the new project was through the activities of a visiting committee. In spite of the real risks involved in having board members visit foster homes, the society had the courage to try out such a plan.

Miss Edith Lauer, the case supervisor of the organization, has written the following article on the experiment, including in it reports on visits made by board members. While many plans work with homogeneous groups that might not prove successful in organizations dealing with undifferentiated case loads, it is nevertheless interesting to record new adventures in board member-worker-client relationships.

"The change from institutional to foster home care implies many readjustments all along the line and not the least important of these is the readjustment necessary for the board member, who has become accustomed to the security of buildings and to the many satisfactions attendant upon seeing groups of children in a well-equipped and well-controlled environment. It is extremely difficult for him to accept a different method of care; it means that the children themselves shall disappear from his ken and the joy of observing their progress shall no longer be a part of his personal experience; it means that they shall be placed with people who are strangers to him and over whom he cannot possibly have any influence; and it means a step into the unknown from a very satisfying, excellent known.

"Social workers can make reports on foster homes and children with all the eloquence compatible with honesty, they can depict the comfortable little cottage, the rose-vines and the embroidered bed-spreads, they can describe relationships with or without anecdotal methods, they can even show photographs of appealing poses but they find it almost impossible adequately to convey the values in foster home care they themselves see. How, then, to convince the properly skeptical layman? How arouse that enthusiasm on both sides of the board room table without which no agency can prosper?

"Many means were employed to bring about as much solid conviction as was possible under the circumstances regarding the merits of the foster home program. One that has proved effective was the establishment of a 'Visiting Committee.' Its function was to bring the individual board member to the individual foster home,

to see for himself the child in its new setting, to enable him to observe the families selected for various types of children and their attitudes towards their responsibilities. The visit was paid with the worker, which made it possible for the board member to observe the strengths or weaknesses of all relationships influencing the child's adjustment and to give him data concerning the family situation.

"Membership on the committee was rotating, so that each board member 'served a term' and had the opportunity of seeing at least ten homes, more if he so desired, and he made his own report of the expeditions at the regular monthly board meetings.

"Criticisms of an adverse nature were freely made, freely discussed and carefully followed by the chairman. In some instances board members chose to revisit in order to secure a more comprehensive picture and better understanding of the different factors involved.

"On the whole the foster parents received these visits with interest—even enthusiasm—and they served to increase their sense of dignity and importance to the agency. At the joint meeting of board and foster parents the question of the value of the Visiting Committee was raised and it was the almost unanimous opinion of the foster parents that it should be continued as it brought greater unity and understanding to the work. As for the board members' version, it may be best to let them speak for themselves. The following are extracts taken bodily from the minutes of the board meetings:

"Mrs. Levy, a board member, reported as follows: 'I visited several homes last Sunday with one of our workers. It was my first experience as a member of the Visiting Committee and I must say an enlightening one. The reports I had heard last year at the meetings sounded in many cases too good to be true, but after seeing for myself I can better understand—and believe. We first called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rice. This is a very superior type home and Herman, who is our foster child there, is indeed fortunate to be placed in such an environment. Mrs. Rice is a fine appearing woman, and when we entered the house she was evidently busy with Sunday dinner, which was very appetizing and made my mouth water. Herman works on Saturday nights and as he was still in bed, unfortunately we did not see him. Worker says he is an unusually fine boy and Mrs. Rice, the foster mother, is genuinely fond of him. He goes to the city college and works three nights a week at a neighborhood drug store. He earns about one dollar a night at this work and is very thrifty. Mrs. Rice tells us that he wants to pay for his clothing out of his savings. Herman evidently appreciates his home and I should call it a most happy placement.

"Another visit brought us to a case which was not so near an approach to Utopia as the previous one. We went to see Esther, who lives with Mrs. Cantor. Esther was leaving the house to visit a girl friend when we arrived but waited to talk with us for a few minutes. She has had an unfortunate background and in contrast to the other children I saw, has been a real problem case. The foster mother, Mrs. Cantor, seems to be just about the right type to handle Esther. She is a sturdy woman with enough firmness to display when

necessary and the necessity apparently arises from time to time. Mrs. Cantor has had the advantage of good advice from the worker in handling this difficult case and she seems to profit by it. The home is neat enough but not in a class with those previously reported; this is perhaps as it should be. Esther some time ago went to live with her own family in Virginia, but it did not work out at all well and she came back to Mrs. Cantor's begging to be allowed to stay there. She is not a bright girl and has had difficulty sticking to one thing. She is now working, however. Worker keeps in close touch with Mrs. Cantor and between them I believe Esther's welfare is being looked after about as well as we could hope for.

"The home of Mrs. Samuels is exceptionally good and Hilda, four years old, who is in Mrs. Samuels' care, is perfectly happy. Last year when I visited the home I had made quite an impression on Hilda and we became quite chummy. This year, Hilda, having reached the sophisticated age of four, was a little more reserved. She sat on my lap and we had quite a formal conversation. She told me all about her little affairs and the games she plays. Her doll, it appears, is too exquisite for words. She showed genuine attachment and love for Mrs. Samuels. I think Hilda is ideally placed.

"Our next visit was to the home of Mrs. Steinbach. That home conveyed to me the most wholesome domestic atmosphere. Mrs. Steinbach is no doubt the foster mother we had seen that morning. She has in her charge four children from our society who are brothers and sisters, Anna, two years old, Lois, three and a half, Herman, five, and Ben, eight. In addition to these four children, there is another child in the home, besides her own daughter. Mrs. Steinbach, her policeman husband, and the six children form a happy family. The children are receiving splendid training. In discussing the clothing with which the children were to be outfitted, Mrs. Steinbach insisted that the children of the society should have their outfits no less in beauty and quality than that which she provides for her own daughter. The worker had not said that they should not have that sort of an outfit and was simply discussing the matter with Mrs. Steinbach, but Mrs. Steinbach's first remark—that all children should be treated alike—received the worker's most enthusiastic support and my own admiration. This woman's whole life is apparently wrapped up in the children.

"Mrs. Steinbach's home is ideal from the point of view of light and air. One bedroom has four large windows, another three. The living room, the kitchen, all of the rooms, in fact, would have been bathed in sunlight had it been a clear day. The children looked perfectly well, though the worker informed me that Lois has had rickets, from which she is recovering under Mrs. Steinbach's care.

"I doubt if our society has ever had a better home for the children than is offered by the Steinbach's.

"I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the worker for making my visits useful and intelligible to me. Without her informing explanation much of what I had seen would perhaps have been lost to me. I was enabled to observe what should have been observed. The worker has a clear and intimate understanding of the problems presented by each child, of what a foster home should be, and of what care the children should receive."

"Mr. Mandel, who visited with Mr. Koren, our boy's worker, reported as follows: 'One of the homes visited was that of Mr. and Mrs. Spiro, taking the responsibility of two of the Goodwin children. The entire Goodwin family consists of Mr. Goodwin and seven children. At the time of the mother's death an attempt was made to keep the family together, with the oldest sister keeping house, but this did not work out satisfactorily. The children were considered and the decision was made that the three younger children, namely, Sidney, Louise and Samuel, become wards of the society. Mr. Goodwin contributes \$40 every month for the children's support. The oldest boy, Samuel, was discharged about a year and a half ago. Louise's former foster mother moved to East Baltimore and an older brother, Herman, who had never shown any particular interest, came to the front and asked that the children be placed in an uptown neighborhood so that he could keep in touch with them. The society considered his feelings and complied with the request and placement was made for Louise and Sidney in their present home with Mrs. Spiro.

"Neither of the children has ever presented any problem. Louise is a pupil of West High School. Her ambition is to go into training as a nurse and she has already made investigation as to these requirements. Sidney is at school in the ninth grade. Both of these children have high mentality and fine ability.

"Just a few weeks ago the foster father lost his job with a dry cleaning company and, of course, the entire family has been distressed as to their livelihood. Mr. Spiro was in New York at the time of our visit looking for employment. Facing the economic situation, Mrs. Spiro called the children together, wondering if their minds could help to arrange some means of support. The outstanding member was Louise, who suggested that the girls of the household could manage the family washing and each one could take a hand. Mrs. Spiro is very proud of Louise and the girl is devoted to her and expresses herself frequently as never wanting to leave her foster mother's care. Sidney obeys his sister and they are all very close. Together with Mrs. Spiro's three daughters, they live in harmony. Mrs. Spiro visits the children's father with them frequently and this situation seems to be an excellent one. At this time the only problem is that Mr. Spiro is unemployed and this is a serious one. In this home the children seem to be in the hands of a good keen woman, full of common sense, who knows how to manage a large family and assume her responsibilities well."

"I wish to state that I believe the work of caring for our children in foster homes has progressed. The placements seem to have been very well studied. We can readily see that certain children could not thrive in homes in which other children are making very good adjustments. There seems to be careful planning behind it all. The workers seem to have the confidence and respect of the foster parents and the children seem quite familiar with our workers which would indicate frequency of visitation. As important as all that is to the success of our work, the thing that I believe helps much is the desire of our Jewish families to be of service to a cause that is good; a desire to help which has always been one of the finest Jewish traditions."

### THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

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### BOOK REVIEW

**KNOW YOUR CHILD.** By Louis Monash. Published by Whittlesey House, New York. Price: \$2.00.

As principal of Public School 33 in the Bronx, New York, Mr. Monash has intimate experience with hundreds of children that gives him a right to plead with parents and teachers to "know your child."

The fourteen chapters of his book take up problems which must be understood and solved day by day, hundreds of times, by anyone who deals with children. Children's Fears, Children's Quarrels, Food Habits, Hobbies, Courage and Self-Confidence, Success and Failure, The Playground, Discipline and Punishment, are some of the topics discussed. Stories so obviously taken from life that one wonders if the camouflage is sufficient, give point to every phase of the subject. Case studies written with graphic reality bring to every reader the practical application of ideas which have been too often left to abstract statement.

A good example of this method is found in the chapter on the Preadolescent. Stanley, a "typical preadolescent," was caught "just as he lunged at a neighbor." Here was a boy giving trouble—a problem to be solved. "Why did you do that?" he was asked. The answer brings out most of the important data about preadolescence, and the behavior problems arising from home and school misunderstanding of growth changes.

*Know Your Child* is simple; it is extremely interesting in style, and its anecdotes and dramatic portraiture carry the reader along from page to page with a clear understanding of the most important phases of child development. Therefore, it is a good book to give to the average parent, teacher, institution manager or social worker. Its psychology and pedagogy are sound, even if abstract principles are not enunciated in the usual technical manner. The educational point of view is "progressive," that is, it is taken for granted that the child develops by means of environmental stimuli, and the educator's cue is to plan so that these stimuli will be adequate, constructive and satisfying.—Jessie A. Charters, Ph.D., Ohio State University, College of Education.

### CLEVELAND CHILDREN'S BUREAU ROUNDS OUT ITS PROGRAM

The Children's Bureau of Cleveland, which was established as the result of the recommendations made by the children's survey in that city in 1920, has limited its service to the investigation of applications to the twenty odd children's institutions affiliated with it and to the adjustment service to the families for whose children application was made. As a result of the study of children's work made by the Child Welfare League of America for the Cleveland Foundation, it is now seeking to equip itself with personnel trained for various types of child placing, and a substantial boarding fund has been made available by the Cleveland Foundation which is to supplement the payment of board on the part of relatives or in certain cases to repay the whole amount. The Division of Charities of the State of Ohio has approved the plan and has licensed the Children's Bureau or one of its local agents to place children in boarding homes.

A certain amount of free home placement, especially with relatives, had been undertaken previous to 1931, but it was constantly menaced by the temptation to place a child in a free home when the facilities and opportunities of good boarding home care were needed. Between the months of April 1 and December 31, 1931, 103 different children had been served by the funds of the Cleveland Foundation, and on January 1, 1932, 88 children were still under care in boarding homes. The type that has had preference for placement has been children who have "outstayed their time in institutions." This created some vacancies and the waiting lists were wiped out.

One interesting development is the fact that a goodly number of the administrators of the institutions have helped to find and select homes to fit the individual children whom they were anxious to have placed. With the additional experience that the agency is getting in meeting the specialized needs of children the whole staff of the Children's Bureau has become more alert in discovering specialized needs and more resourceful in working out plans for the child when an application comes for care. The staff is more foster-home conscious and additional good homes are being turned out as a result.

To meet the demand for Catholic foster homes a homefinding committee of lay persons of the National Council of Catholic Women has been organized to assist the Ohio Humane Society, the County Child Welfare Board of Cuyahoga County and the Children's Bureau in finding Catholic homes. The three agencies have organized a child-training course for this group. Already boarding homes have been approved and are in use in at least fifteen of the Catholic Church parishes.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

An American Chapter of the Save the Children Fund, which has its headquarters office in Geneva, Switzerland, has been organized in the United States and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. Its main purpose is to assist, as far as opportunity clearly presents itself, in the care of children in other lands in whom the generous people of the United States have always taken a live interest and for whose welfare substantial and sometimes large sums have been sent abroad. Its immediate and first concern, however, has been the care of the children of unemployed miners in Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia and other States for whose feeding President Hoover was able to obtain a substantial sum from private sources and which he entrusted to the American Friends Service Committee of Philadelphia.

The newly organized Save the Children Fund has undertaken to obtain the money for clothing which makes it possible for children to go to school and to obtain the food which in many instances they were prevented from obtaining because of their families' great destitution. The distribution of the fund for clothing is in the hands of the American Friends Service Committee, of which Mr. Clarence E. Pickett is the executive secretary. Many volunteer workers of the Friends who rendered excellent service in Russia, Austria, Germany and other countries immediately after the war are now enlisted in service to these children and their families. By this means the administrative expense remains low.

The service for medical care will be worked out in cooperation with the State Departments of Health and the county health officers in the various States.

It is of interest to note what the present low costs as well as the excellent cooperation which the American Friends Service Committee has been able to establish can do in the way of furnishing kits for the children. The kits, costing \$3.50 each, will contain for the girls one pair of shoes, two dresses, a lumber jacket or sweater, two sets of underwear, two pairs of stockings and one cap. The kit for the boys will contain one pair of shoes, two pairs of overalls, one lumber jacket or sweater, two pairs of stockings, two cotton flannel shirts and one cap. The low cost of each kit is made possible through the aid of volunteer groups of women who will make all the dresses for the girls and all the shirts for the boys.

The office of the Save the Children Fund is located at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

## CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

OHIO—Allen County Child Welfare Association, Lima. Miss Verna Maud Sutton, Executive Director, succeeding Mrs. Serviah Packard, resigned.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION REPORTS ON ITS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

On February 5 and 6 the Area Child Welfare Conference sponsored by the American Legion was held in Cincinnati. The following report on child welfare legislation was given by Milt D. Campbell, National Vice-Chairman of the National Child Welfare Committee:

"The success of the 1931 legislative program of the American Legion Child Welfare Division was so impressive that other organizations were amazed and very complimentary in their comments about our accomplishment. The influence of the Legion and its auxiliaries was proven without question of doubt; 1931 was the St. Mihiel drive of our program. You will, of course, remember that that great drive was the proving of the American army's ability to fight and win. The legislative success of 1931 was the proof of the rightness and strength of the Legion's National Child Welfare program.

"1932 cannot bring this same kind of accomplishment, for, in the first place, it is the vacation year for most legislatures. Secondly, economic conditions in those States in which the legislatures do meet will make it necessary to emphasize economy programs. This will undoubtedly result in a temporary delay of better child welfare legislation.

"When efforts are made for adequate appropriations for mothers' aid and for other forms of service which will give children the advantages of wholesome family life, the public and the legislators think of such expenditures as additional rather than as substitutes. It is easy to see that those legislators who on one hand are being pressed by the utility group to cut taxes and by their constituents at home to save public money, are very apt to refuse any and all legislation that would smack of increased expenditures.

"There is one and only one cure for such a condition. That cure is education of the public and of the law maker. When the public becomes Child Betterment Legislative-minded, the politician quickly senses the change.

"To the average man comes the question: Why is this condition true when for years the professional welfare worker has been preaching these same doctrines? The answer is that the public and the legislator have been skeptical of the sincerity of the professional worker. They have said: 'Naturally these people want more money, more power, more attention, for their very livelihood depends upon it.' Well may we be thankful that for the most part these professional workers are sincere; they are really self-sacrificing and intense in their work. They have studied the needs and know the remedies, but they are powerless to prove these things to the public without the public's interest, and right here is where the Legion can and does enter the picture. With over a million and a half members,—for I include our Auxiliary,—controlling five million votes in this country, unselfish to an extreme, reaching into every village and hamlet, we can carry the message of the professional or trained worker into every home. No one can accuse the Legion of trying to feather its own nest when it advocates better care for all children, and an equal

appropriation for the child of the man who stayed at home, as for the man who answered the call in '17 and '18. Where is the legislator who can close his ears to the call of this powerful organization when it says that organized welfare groups can and do accomplish more good for less money than do unorganized and uncoordinated groups?

"The Legion's program for 1932 must be the further education of its own members, of the public and of the other organizations to the end that 1933 shall be another year of harvest of better things for our American families and children. Charity which merely patronizes the recipient is a dangerous thing for a nation. Of course, charity is and always has been a necessity and it and other evils cannot be controlled by legislation, but we can lessen the evil by intelligent giving where it does the most good. . . .

"Most of our States need a recodification of the laws affecting the family and the child. In many instances the original laws were passed when conditions were much different than they are today. As conditions changed, new laws were passed, but old laws were allowed to remain. Often we find one law in actual conflict with a later law. In one State there is today a law which states that no child shall ride in a vehicle that proceeds at a greater speed than four miles per hour. While this law is still on the statutes, it is, of course, not enforced. In other States there are laws that are just as ridiculous that are supposed to regulate adoption, placement, education and habitation of children. Through recodification the statutes may be brought up to date and, when necessary, old laws repealed. We need to put new and improved laws into effect, and, above all, to put some teeth into some of the laws so that they can be enforced. Some effective action should be taken to stop fathers from abandoning their families and children. Many instances, even among our own veterans, are on record where there has been brought into the world from one to ten children, then the father becomes dissatisfied and leaves. In some instances he does not go far, but claims unemployment and thereby relieves himself from the necessity of caring for those to whom he owes everything. In other instances he goes to another State and laughs at the law. A man must be taught that he owes all to those for whose life he is responsible.

"As has been previously stated, there is need in every State for better and more adequate mothers' aid and boarding home legislation. It must be shown that it is not only better but cheaper to keep children in their own homes or in small groups or singly in a boarding home than in an institution. . . . Some county commissioners, where there are mothers' aid laws, believe they are liberal when they spend the same amount for that purpose as they spend on the dog pound or the Memorial Day Parade Fund. In some localities the county gives from two to five dollars a month to care for a family. This is merely wasted public funds,—what good can this small amount do? A careful study will prove that children can be kept with their own mothers or with understanding boarding mothers much cheaper than in institutions and will receive individual attention instead of mass care.

"Idleness among children or adults is dangerous to public well-being. Directed and organized recreation is necessary. In many States we now have laws which

provide for recreational facilities. More attention must be given to this in those States not so fortunate. The nation and many States have programs for great recreational parks and open spaces, game preserves and breathing spaces, but better programs of direction must be evolved and put into practice. The general objectives of the program should be the same for boys and girls, but special study must be made of the special needs of girls and the program adapted to them. Qualified leaders must be employed to lead in the creation of these programs and to administer them. An informed public opinion is the only avenue to the realization of these practical ideals.

"States that are spending millions annually on concrete roads and other things for the more fortunate are still housing children in buildings not suited for animals. In many institutions the limitations on salaries for matrons and caretakers are such that only the mediocre can be obtained. Do you believe that Mr. Bradley, the well-known race horse owner, would keep his fine horses in firetrap stables or that he would hire men as caretakers whose mentality was scarcely higher than the horses'? Would he accept the services of some elderly person who had never studied horses and place that person over ten or twenty colts? Hardly. He knows that if race horses are to win races they must be properly trained by those who know how. Are not the children of your State entitled to as much consideration? Legislation concerning standards and qualifications is necessary to make this change possible. There are other questions on domiciliary institutions of equal importance which need corrective legislation. To those going into this phase of legislation your National Division will be glad to make suggestions and to assist.

"And now let us enter into a field which is so controversial that we must almost fear to enter, but the old axiom of 'fools enter where angels fear to tread' holds good in your humble servant's case. That is the field of the correctional institutions usually termed reformatories, State Schools, Boys' Farms, etc. Too much attention cannot be given to these institutions. An institution like any other thing is proven by its accomplishments. A correctional institution that does not correct is not a correctional institution at all, and yet the records of our State reformatories are largely on the negative side.

"It is not hard to make a good citizen out of a boy or girl whose tendencies are good; the real test is to make a good citizen from the child whose tendencies or environment has caused it to err. It can be done, but it must be done right. The Legion must throw its power to legislation which will make possible better institutions directed by those who are qualified for this work. Competent matrons and supervisors must be employed. More and better facilities and equipment must be provided.

"The Legion cannot rest in 1932 just because the legislatures are recessing. Their rest must be our labor time. Your National Child Welfare Division stands ready to assist you in your respective States. A digest of model laws is being made at present, with suggestions for improved legislation which will be sent to you upon request. \* \* \* 1933 will again see the American Legion serving in time of peace as its members served in time of war for the betterment of mankind in general and the future of America in particular."

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## OHIO FOLLOWS UP ON THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD HEALTH AND PROTECTION

On January 21 and 22 delegates from all quarters of Ohio met in Columbus at the call of Governor White to consider the needs of all children and to make plans for carrying the findings and recommendations of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection to the most remote hamlets of the State.

The program was built around the general theme of the Ohio Child—His Home Setting, His School Setting and His Community Setting. Instead of having the delegates meet in separate divisions for discussion of the health education and welfare aspects of a child welfare program, all of the meetings were joint. In other words, for two days consideration was given to the whole child by the entire group. The registration of delegates was approximately 1,100, and consisted of doctors, dentists, nurses, educators, juvenile judges, social workers, parents and other interested lay persons.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland, who served as chairman of the general sponsoring committee appointed by the Governor, was the speaker at the Thursday evening session of the conference. Those who have heard Rabbi Silver know the moving eloquence with which he discusses those phases of the American scene which have to do with the development of our children. He stressed particularly the connection between the reorganized economic system and the welfare of children. He also urged that we concern ourselves with educating boys and girls so that the leisure time which the machine age is giving to us in larger and larger segments may be used creatively and thus become an asset rather than a liability to mankind.

Governor White opened the conference expressing his interest in all programs having for their purpose better opportunities for children and was also present at the closing dinner on Friday night.

It is difficult to capture the intangible spirit which dominated the conference sufficiently to convey in words what it meant to most of the delegates, but there is no doubt but that the majority of those in attendance sensed something beyond the usual atmosphere of conferences. While it is true that there were perhaps a few people who were disappointed because problems of delinquency, dependency and other pathological social situations were not specifically discussed, it was evident that most of those present received new inspiration and fresh courage from hearing physicians, psychiatrists, educators and social workers talk in terms of the good for all children.

When plans for the program were discussed with Rabbi Silver he raised the question as to whether "some magnificent mother" ought not be asked to participate.

Mrs. C. M. Lotspeich, of Cincinnati, who runs a private school for children, is a mother of five children and therefore was able to qualify on two counts, namely, as an educator and as the "magnificent mother" who Rabbi Silver was sure could be found within Ohio's borders. In appearance Mrs. Lotspeich will, as she grows older, greatly resemble Madame Schumann-Heink and thus both in appearance and in performance she lived up to Rabbi Silver's adjective.

The paper of Dr. T. Wingate Todd, of Cleveland, on Growth and Development was a scientific masterpiece cast in English so beautifully simple that the man on the street would have had no difficulty in following him. Furthermore, there was an undefinable charm both in Dr. Todd's subject matter and in his method of presentation which made the topic of growth and development of every man's child a matter of high adventure at least for the moment.

Space does not permit detailed comment on the contributions made by each speaker, but it was the consensus of opinion that Dr. A. Graeme Mitchell, of Cincinnati, the first speaker, whose subject was "Ushering the Child into the Home," ran the thermometer of interest to a point much beyond where it usually registers; and that the succeeding speakers held it there through the final dinner at which Mr. C. M. Bookman, of Cincinnati, ended the conference upon the same high note at which it began.

The chief social function of the two days was the tea at the executive mansion on Thursday from 4.30 to 6, at which Miss Mary Louise White, Governor White's daughter and official hostess, received the delegates. At the closing dinner on Friday night the Governor expressed his regret that he had been unable to attend the tea the day before but remarked that he thought it must have been quite successful without him because "Mary reported to me she had to send out for more cookies."

Plans are now under way for the formation of county White House Conference committees which will carry on in the respective communities of Ohio. There will be a State Continuing Committee on which there will be representation of the various groups in Ohio interested in child welfare, the directors of the State departments serving as ex-officio members. This puts responsibility for carrying on what was begun by the Governor's conference upon those groups which are fairly stable and not subject to turnover due to political changes.

As is true of any conference, some of the "inside" stories about the Ohio meeting are the best. Certain ones of them are almost as good as those that came out of Washington a year ago.

Some people who should have been invited were over-

looked. Other folks were so important to the various organizations asked by the Governor to send lists of persons to be invited that they received seven or eight invitations. Time was short and it was impossible to check all of the lists. Thus, if a Who's Who in children's work were to be compiled in Ohio the first names to go in ought to be those of persons who received five invitations or more to the Governor's conference.

An interesting conversation was overheard at the registration desk. One person said to another, "How does it come there were only two women on this program?" "That's easy," was the reply, "didn't you know that the women interested in this thing decided upon the program and then got the most able men in the State to do the work?"

The director of one of the State departments has a man secretary to whom the time schedules, with special assignments of his chief during the two days the White House Conference was to be in session, were sent. This man called up the secretary of the conference committee to check on the schedules sent him and after there had been further explanation, he said, "Oh, by the way, Miss Ray, what is this Governor's Conference to be held this week?"

The Isaak Walton League and the Ohio Conservation League for the protection of fish and game met at the same time as the conference on child health and protection. One man greatly interested in seeing that his fishing privileges were not to be lost strayed into the children's meeting while Dr. Mitchell was talking about the importance of prenatal care. The look of bewilderment which preceded the gentleman's abrupt exodus from the room, together with his colorful comment on a hotel management which wouldn't direct a man so he could get to the "fish meeting" instead of to one about babies, added greatly to the grist of conference stories floating about.

One prominent delegate felt it necessary to drop a word of warning to a social worker about not over-emphasizing the case-work aspects of child welfare in the county follow-up and thereby losing the interest and cooperation of the health and education groups. She felt the social-work vocabulary had rather predominated in several of the meetings. Within ten minutes a social worker remarked that while she personally thought it was a good thing, it seemed to her that educational interests were getting a pretty large share of the spotlight, which gave her listener a chance to remark that if our economic system was a just and equitable one, if for every child Ohio actually provided the kind of education which would make it possible for him to develop his capabilities to the maximum, and if our "fact-using" ever caught up with our "fact-finding" in the fields of both public health and child health, the social

worker would become an increasingly unnecessary part of our social mechanism.

The Governor's Conference has undoubtedly stimulated a renewed interest in Ohio in the care and protection of children. If through the State Continuing Committee and the local committees an evaporation of this interest can be prevented, Ohio should be able, as Pennsylvania has done, to begin to think in terms of a coordinated program which will truly "give to every child his chance."

### THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

21st. The meetings of the Child Welfare League of America are expected to attract unusually large numbers. The League's program, which will be announced in the next issue of the BULLETIN, is being prepared by a committee of which Mr. Henry W. Thurston is chairman. As in previous years, these meetings will be held during the Conference week from Monday to Friday, inclusive.

The headquarters of the League will be at Hotel Benjamin Franklin. The National Conference headquarters also will be at this hotel. Members of the League and others who wish to reserve accommodations there should do so at once. Rates at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel for single rooms with bath are \$4.00 and up, for double rooms \$6.00 and up. Reservations at this hotel or elsewhere may be secured through Mr. Frank L. Devine, Chairman, Committee on Hotels and Housing, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, 12th and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia.

### MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In the Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Children's Protective Association of Los Angeles the names of eleven persons are mentioned in whose memory memorial contributions were sent to that association by friends of the deceased. In place of sending flowers to the bereaved, members and friends of the association are asked to send memorial contributions to it. A memorial card is then sent to the bereaved family advising them that a friend has sent a memorial contribution to the association in memory of the loved one. This plan has also been used by the California Children's Home Society with satisfaction and success. The plan might advantageously be extended for the support of organizations further east.

### ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members only)

THE BELKNAPS. Real Wisconsin Folks. By Arthur H. Taylor, Children's Home and Aid Society of Wisconsin. Annual Report, 1930-1931. Children's Aid Association, Boston, Massachusetts.